

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A pluggable Raster Imaging Processor (RIP) system with two layers. The first layer is the RIP manager layer, which is mainly responsible for load balancing when multiple jobs requiring different types of raster conversion are encountered. The top layer is also
5 responsible for communicating with other modules such as the Job Manager to start the job at the right trigger and obtain the type of rasterization required, and the Print Data Manager to forward the job to the physical image output device. The second layer comprises a series of pluggable Raster Image Processors which perform the actual rasterizing of the images. Different Raster Image Processors can be plugged into the controller by registering themselves
10 to the RIP manager layer. When registering, the Raster Image Processor denotes what types of images it can rasterize, such as FAX, PDL, or other formats.